

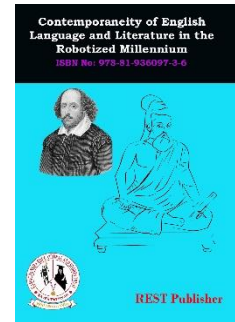
Contemporaneity of Language and Literature in the Robotized Millennium

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Carting the Significance of Artificial Intelligence in English Language Teaching

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Abstract: *The use of educational technologies in English language teaching (ELT) has become widely accepted in the post-pandemic era, and, for better or worse, some of these technologies rely on artificial intelligence (AI). Artificial intelligence is on the rise as witnessed in the growing popularity of dialogue systems like Alexa. However, some key criteria still need to be met before it can serve as a substitute for a real-life language teacher: spontaneity, creativity and shared knowledge. As an area of technological growth and increasing financial investment, we are likely to see more AI-driven technologies in teaching and learning in the post-pandemic ELT world. ELT will not be immune to this development, and it behooves us as language teachers to be familiar with AI's current benefits and challenges, so that we can better prepare for that future. This article describes how AI is currently used in ELT and explores some of the opportunities and challenges that AI can provide for learners, teachers and institutions.*

Keywords: *education, technologies, ELT, artificial, intelligence, real-life, benefits, challenges*

1. INTRODUCTION

The paradigm shift in teaching in the post-Covid era has particularly drawn the attention of educators more tech-savvy and use technology and the digital resources for active collaboration with the motif of enhancing the students' learning experience. Chatting to learners from different countries and different teaching contexts, the feeling of being insecure about the use of apps, sites and the mobile learning approach becomes the focal point of discussion.

A recent publication from UNESCO identified specific challenges to be navigated when it when it understands and integration of artificial intelligence by teachers. One of these, 'Leveraging AI to enhance education and learning' (UNESCO, 2019), directly relates to how teachers can use AI during classes, and this will be the focus of today's blog. The tools now available with integrated AI mean that we can share some responsibility with our students and trust them with a task that would usually be performed by the teacher. We are encouraging them to have a more proactive attitude towards their learning, and fostering their independence.

2. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-MEANING IN BRIEF

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a term referring to machines which emulate the behaviour of intelligent beings (Borchardt & Page, 1994). AI is an interdisciplinary area of knowledge and research, whose aim is to understand how the human mind works and how to apply the same principles in technology de-sign. In language learning and teaching tasks, AI can be used to emulate the behaviour of a teacher or a learner (Matthews, 1993). To emulate the behaviour of a language teacher, a machine needs to have the 'knowledge' of teaching methodology. To emulate a learner, a machine must have the knowledge of learning styles and strategies (Bull, 1997). However, both emulations require the knowledge of language.

3. PERCEPTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

To understand the artificial intelligence, one delves into various directions such as narrow AI, general AI and introduce the key segments of AI with the concept of machine learning as well as deep learning. For instance, Artificial Intelligence in Astronomy can solve the problems that occur in the complex universe and helps in understanding the things like how the way it works, origin etc. Artificial Intelligence in data security plays a vital role. Artificial intelligence in social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat was subscribed by many users and stores the data in an efficient manner. It identifies latest trends, hashtag and requirements of several users.

4. ROLE OF AI IN ELT CLASSROOM

AI plays a key role in disseminating knowledge and aids teachers in imparting the lessons efficiently. The outcome can be seen in positive results in classroom teaching and the learner's linguistic competence is enhanced in comparison to the traditional pedagogies of teaching which are exclusive built on human beings. For instance, Raquel Ribeiro, an English Teacher from Brazil explores the practical ways in which AI can be implemented in the ELT classroom by teachers. She states:

The rapid expansion of technology and digital applications that characterizes the "4th Industrial Revolution" is changing the way we live, work – and learn. It's a revolution driven by the fusion and amplification of emerging breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, automation, and robotics, and multiplied by the far-reaching connectivity between billions of people with mobile devices that offer unprecedented access to data and knowledge.' (Manns, 2017).

Though AI can be terrifying, yet its potential is massive. As one of the branches of computer science, AI is concerned in building smart machines which can perform tasks, but which requires human intelligence. Deliberations can be made on AI not based on its applications and uses scientifically, but if properly employed, AI can be used by teachers practically in the best manner in the ELT class.

Artificial Intelligence has set a trend in the history of technology and again proved another success that has been credited into the account of humans. This development added a key moment in the human mind and heart to understand its own intelligence and quest to invent furthermore. Based on the complexity of the task a system can perform, AI is categorized into four different types.

5. AI TOOLS USED IN THE ELT CLASSROOM

The problem of pronunciation is an ongoing challenge to both ELT and EFL students and teachers across all language levels. There are technologies available free of charge that can assist both teachers and students in this regard. Speech can be transcribed, pronunciation checked, and voice commands answered. Before bringing some ideas into the classroom, ask students to add English to the list of languages in their smartphone settings. The language settings must be enabled in English so that the system can understand and transcribe the student's speech. Google Docs speech recognition is a widely-known text processor that has recently added the possibility of speech editing. The system can only understand simple commands when it was established in the beginning, but now the voice recognition feature has evolved and is currently a free, mobile-friendly tool that can assist the teacher during feedback in conversational activities. Like other AI tools used within an educational context, it helps teachers to blend their own creativity with the app usage to maximize student benefit.

Google Maps is another tool to practice directions in English Language teaching classroom. Google Maps is a navigation, mapping app that offers satellite imagery. When teaching directions and how to get to places, teachers can make use of this popular app that is available on most mobile devices. After teaching the basic commands such as: *turn right/left, cross the street, next to, go straight ahead, opposite to*, etc. list nearby places on the board. Students can sit in pairs and trios and make sure there's at least one person whose phone has Maps installed. The idea is to have students research how to go from their location (school) to the places listed, one at a time. By being able to see the map, they will be more confident when telling their classmate how to get to the desired place.

6. AI TO ENHANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

AI is constantly growing and evolving and there are firm indications that ways of teaching and learning along with the teaching tools we use will be profoundly transformed. Teacher guidance and creativity, allied with AI technology tools are a powerful means to encourage students' development in their language learning journey.

7. CONCLUSION

Thus, AI plays a pivotal role in teaching and learning languages enabling content and teaching style to be structures according to the needs of individual learners' preferences. AI based language teaching/learning fosters communication and collaboration between students and teachers. AI tools stimulate creativity and critical thinking, thus providing students to explore innovative ideas and ensures holistic development of the individual.

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